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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/046,651	10/19/2001	Terry J. Smith	P-HR 5213	3673

7590 11/03/2004
CATHERINE CAMPBELL
CAMPBELL & FLORES LLP
4370 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE
7TH FLOOR
SAN DIEGO, CA 92122

EXAMINER

NOLAN, PATRICK J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/046,651	SMITH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Patrick J. Nolan	1644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-19 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1644

1. Claims 1-23 are pending.
2. Applicant's election with traverse to prosecute Group VI, in the Paper received 8-11-04 is acknowledged. Applicant traversed the restriction amongst Groups IV-VI. After a prior art search was conducted on the elected Group it was concluded that two separate prosecutions would not be necessary to examine the additional Groups traversed. So, Groups IV-VI have been joined in addition to claims 20-23 to form one Group, claims 13-23. Since applicant presented no specific traversals as to the restriction amongst the other Groupings, the restriction of Groups I-III is made Final.
3. Claims 1-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 8-11-04.
4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
5. Claims 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for detecting autoantibody activated fibroblasts in thyroid associated ophthalmopathy by detecting IL-16 and RANTES release by said fibroblasts, does not reasonably provide enablement for detecting any antibody-activated fibroblasts by detecting IL-16 and RANTES levels in bodily fluids. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The scope of the claim encompasses detecting any antibody activated fibroblast by detecting IL-16 and RANTES release. However as clearly taught by the specification, fibroblasts in general are highly divergent in their function and biological properties in body. The purpose of IL-16 and RANTES release by autoantibody bound fibroblasts in the eye is to attract T cells for an ongoing inflammatory response. Fibroblasts have many different properties that have no

Art Unit: 1644

relation to inducing an ongoing inflammatory response. The state of the art, Ishibashi et al., teaches that antibodies which bind to fibroblasts and activates them causes the release of 72 kDa pro-gelatinase, an enzyme involved in tissue remodeling. Since Applicant's working examples are limited to the involvement of autoantibodies in activating fibroblasts to release pro-inflammatory cytokines during TAO, and the specification and the state of the recognize that antibody activated fibroblasts are reasonably involved in many other fibroblasts related activities that having nothing to do with inflammation, measuring IL-16 and RANTES in these situations would not be reasonably predictable of an overall antibody activated state of fibroblasts it would be unpredictable to practice the full scope of the claimed invention without an undue amount of experimentation.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 and 23 are indefinite because they recite and improper Markush group. After the second to last member, they should be an "and".

8. Currently recited claims 20-22 are free of the prior art.

9. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

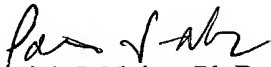
10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 1644

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick Nolan whose telephone number is 571-272-0847.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan, can be reached at 571-272-0841.



Patrick J. Nolan, Ph.D.

Primary Examiner, Group 1640

October 30, 2004